

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9752

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: ECHEVERRIA AND UN SEC GEN POST

1. IN HIS ANNUAL STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS ON SEPTEMBER 1, PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA TWICE REFERRED TO ISSUE OF HIS POSSIBLE CANDIDACY FOR UN SECRETARY GENERAL:

A. IN AN APPARENT AD LIB ADDITION TO HIS PREPARED TEXT, HE SAID (IN RATHER TORTURED SYNTAX): "IF TELLING THE POWERS WHICH MAKE UP PART OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL -- IN THE NAME OF A PEOPLE WHICH IS DEVELOPING AND WEAK -- THAT THEY ARE MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE BY TRAMPLING UPON HUMAN DIGNITY AND ENDANGERING THE PEACE, (IF THIS) MEANS A POSSIBLE VETO FOR AN IMAGINARY CANDIDACY FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THEY ARE AT LIBERTY TO DO SO."

B. AGAIN, JUST BEFORE HIS PERORATION, ECHEVERRIA RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT: "BECAUSE OF OUR INTENSE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY, IN SOME CIRCLES THERE HAVE BEEN COMMENTS THAT THE PRESENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MEXICO MIGHT BE DESIGNATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. SIMILARLY, THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
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MIGHT BE CONFERRED UPON HIM ... BEFORE ALL MEXICANS, I

DECLARE IN AN UNEQUIVOCAL MANNER THAT NONE OF MY ACTIONS ARE RELATED TO A DESIRE TO WIN THAT HIGH POST NOR TO DESERVE THAT HONORABLE RECOGNITION. THOSE WHO MAKE THESE AFFIRMATIONS HAVE NO OTHER MOTIVE THAN TO DISCREDIT MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THEY DO SO BECAUSE THE UPRIGHTNESS OF OUR POSITIONS AFFECTS VESTED INTERESTS ... I NEVER IN MY LIFE CONSIDERED OR NOW CONSIDER THAT I COULD EVER RECEIVE ANY HIGHER DISTINCION THAN THAT OF HAVING BEEN ELECTED BY THE POPULAR WILL PRESIDENT OF MEXICO."

2. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, COSTA RICAN FONMIN GONZALO FACIO, IN BRIEF VISIT TO MEXICO AND REFERRING TO SECGEN CANDIDACY, TOLD REPORTERS: "I TOLD PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA THAT (IT SEEMED TO ME) VERY DIFFICULT (UNLIKELY) THAT THERE WOULD BE A VETO (OF THE ECHEVERRIA CANDIDACY) BY THE SUPER-POWERS SUCH AS THE U.S., FRANCE, ENGLAND OR THE USSR, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT HE (ECHEVERRIA) IS A GREAT ACTIVIST ... AND THAT OBVIOUSLY HT IS NOT THE IDEAL CANDIDATE TO SATISFY ... THE GREAT POWERS; BUT IF IT IS DEMONSTRATED -- AS IT WILL BE -- THAT HE HAS MAJORITY SUPPORT AMONG THE NATIONS, HE WILL NOT BE VETOED."

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, ECHEVERRIA'S COMMENTS IN HIS SPEECH DID NOT DENY OR RENOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY.
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